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Subject: [External] Puerto Ricans are living climate change right now. Do you know a young climate leader who should run for office?

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Puerto Ricans are living climate change right now. Do you know a young climate leader who should run for office?

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October 2, 2017

Critical information about the environment delivered weekly



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“Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species –man – acquired significant power to alter the nature of the world.” – Rachel Carson

Campus & Community Action

Do you know a young climate leader who should run for office?

Frontlines to Power is a training program to help prepare young climate leaders of color and from frontline communities to run for local office. For too long, these very communities have been left out of our democracy, which has led to a lack of meaningful action to address



climate change and environmental destruction. It is time for our democracy to be powered by people who, because of their lived experience, recognize the urgency to act on climate and advance environmental, economic and racial justice. The Power Shift Network is committed to empowering youth from economically, environmentally, and politically marginalized communities at the frontlines of the climate crisis to become advocates for their own futures. [Read more here.](#)

**October 18th: International Day of Action on
Bioenergy**



Join Dogwood Alliance, Biofuel
Watch and Global Forest Coalition
on October 18th to call out
[#BigBadBioenergy!](#)

Whether it's precious American
Southeastern coastal forests being
clearcut to make wood pellet biomass for Europe or communities in the
Philippines being evicted in biofuel landgrabs, bioenergy is a global issue that
has local implications in nearly every country. On October 18th, unite and take
action on social media to call out #BigBadBioenergy. Post on social media and
tell policy makers to take action by using the hashtag #BigBadBioenergy. [Learn
more and RSVP to the event here.](#)

Environmental News

Puerto Ricans are living climate change right now. Here's how they describe it.

Millions of people in the Caribbean are getting a glimpse of a future that more and more people around the world will soon experience. This month's hurricanes are the storms scientists have warned us about for decades. They have arrived —



causing heartbreak and agony, wrecking homes and destroying lives.

For the millions more friends and family members watching and waiting on the U.S. mainland and elsewhere, [word from their loved ones](#) can't come soon enough. One week after Hurricane Maria made landfall, Puerto Rico remains in a state of disarray, and communication is still largely cut off to most of the island. [Read more on Grist.](#)

Environmental groups praise cap-and-trade pact on greenhouse gas, but seek wider scope, equity



Environmental groups are cheering extension of a program that could cut pollution from Northeastern power plants by 30 percent over a decade, but are calling for emissions caps to be placed on more facilities, especially those in poor communities

of color. Representatives from Maryland and eight other states met at the state's Public Service Commission on Monday to discuss an agreement announced last month to set emissions goals for 2020 to 2030 — extending the program known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The initiative, which auctions off greenhouse gas emissions allowances to large power plants and spends the proceeds on renewable and efficient energy projects, had been set to expire in 2020. [Read more on The Baltimore Sun.](#)

This bipartisan Senate bill could enable U.S. offshore wind to take off

When the U.S. was ready to ramp up its solar industry, developers benefited from investments made in Germany, Spain and elsewhere in Europe that had funded gigawatt-scale annual deployments and pushed down costs. The same could happen with offshore wind.



By the end of 2016, 14.4 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity had been installed globally, with nearly 90 percent of the total deployed in European waters. Prices for projects coming on-line from 2020 have fallen to \$50 per megawatt-hour in Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany. The United States, meanwhile, has so far managed to bring on-line just one modest commercial project, the 30-megawatt [Block Island Wind Farm](#) off of Rhode Island. A bill introduced this summer by a bipartisan group of senators aims to help the U.S. catch up with Europe. On August 1, 2017, Senators Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) introduced the Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power

Act with 10 co-sponsors. [Read more on GreenTech Media.](#)

Europe could have 200 gigawatts of wind by 2020, putting it ahead of America



Europe's total installed wind power capacity could surpass 200 gigawatts in 2020, according to a forecast issued by trade body WindEurope this week. And up to 15 percent of that capacity could be offshore, WindEurope predicted.

The offshore build-out, which will account for a quarter of new capacity over the next four years, will put the European Union ahead of the U.S. in terms of total installed capacity in 2020, WindEurope and International Energy Agency (IEA) figures show. The EU will be the second largest wind market in the world, after China, WindEurope revealed. "This is going to be a huge step for the industry," said Aloys Nghiem, WindEurope technology analyst, in a conference call. [Read more on Greentech Media.](#)

Deaths of farmworkers in cow manure ponds put oversight of dairy farms into question

Alberto Navarro Munoz had been working on the farm for only two weeks when he encountered one of the most gruesome hazards that a dairy worker can face. His tractor tipped over into a pit of cow manure, submerging the Mexican native



under several feet of a “loose thick somewhat liquid-like substance,” according to the police report documenting his death in southern Idaho.

The deaths have rattled Idaho’s dairy industry as well as local immigrant communities that do the bulk of the work producing nearly 15 billion pounds of milk annually on the industrial-sized farms in the state’s southern prairie. As farms have transitioned from family operations into big businesses involving thousands of cows and massive machinery, new safety concerns have emerged. [Read more on the Washington Post.](#)

The USDA is being sued for delaying new organic standards



When you think of "free-range" chicken, what exactly comes to mind? That question, amazingly enough, is now central to a lawsuit filed against the U.S. government. This debate centers around the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule. It is essentially an updated and more precise list of rules about how exactly meat, poultry and eggs will be produced if they are to score the coveted "organic" label—and the price increase that comes along with it. But the rule has been delayed and questioned so often in the eight months since it was officially introduced that the Organic Trade Association has resorted to the nuclear option: sue the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). [Read more on Ecowatch.](#)

Truthout and Earth Island Journal investigate America's toxic prisons

At least 589 prisons sit within three miles of a Superfund site. Prisons are often located on contaminated sites like landfills and coal ash dumps. Meanwhile, prisons spill contaminated water, including raw sewage, into local waterways, endangering surrounding communities, which are



often rural and poor. While prisons themselves are hidden away, their toxicity spreads far beyond their walls.

Our collaborative investigation demonstrates what many incarcerated people have always known: Prisons are toxic.

However, as more people become aware of the links between environmental degradation and incarceration, exciting opportunities emerge for intersectional activism. As Rose Braz and Craig Gilmore note in their discussion of the links between the environmental justice and anti-prison movements, "many of the costs of over-incarceration are hidden, but ... they can, once revealed, prove very effective in moving new and formerly unlikely allies into the fight to reduce the numbers of our neighbors locked away." [Read more on Truth Out.](#)

U.S. scientists to skip Monsanto summit on controversial weed killer



Monsanto Co invited dozens of weed scientists to a summit this week to win backing for a controversial herbicide but many have declined, threatening the company's efforts to convince regulators the product is safe to use.

Monsanto faces a barrage of lawsuits over its dicamba herbicide and risks of tighter restrictions on its use, after the chemical drifted away from where it was sprayed this summer and damaged nearby crops unable to tolerate it.

Arkansas and Missouri suffered the most complaints of U.S. states with damage linked to dicamba. Weed scientists from the two states declined to attend the summit on concerns about Monsanto's response to the incident. The company plans to present data at the summit that it says show user error was behind the damage, contrary to academics' findings that dicamba products can vaporize and move off target under certain conditions in a process known as volatilization. [Read more on Reuters.](#)

Blog Post: Fracking – The source of the problem

Fights over pipeline construction are not new, but they have become central of late to the debate between safe, sustainable energy and extractive, polluting, fossil-fuel reliance. While many factors contribute to the increased focus on pipelines, chief among them is the



boom in natural gas production in the US, brought about via developments in fracking techniques, technology, and deregulation, which has led to a demand for new pipeline construction.

Along with the boom has come greater awareness: more spills, leaks, and explosions, and a simultaneous increased use of Eminent Domain to put the land of private citizens in the hands of private corporations. The fracking/pipeline issue's growing profile comes as no surprise.

Through the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines, the issue has grown from a localized concern into a national bone of contention. [Read more on](#)

[Government Accountability Project's website.](#)

The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

Over the years we at RCC have been devoted to providing you the public with important, timely information about the environment. RCC exists because of donations from individuals like you.

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